Proposals of Election Commission

4086. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals of the Election Commission are still pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of all-party meeting called by Government to discuss the pending proposals during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that no such meeting has been held by Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (See below).

(c) Five such meetings have been held during the period from May, 1994 to April, 1997.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Important proposals of the Election Commission which are pending as on 1st January, 1997

1. The Election Commission should have an independent secretariat and the expenditure on the Commission should be 'charged'.

2. No candidate should be allowed to contest from more than one constituency.

3. Automatic disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practice.

4. Enhancement of required minimum number of valid votes polled to save security deposit from 'one-sixth' to 'one-fourth' thereof.

5. Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and audit thereof.

6. The existing provision in section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, relating to registration of political parties, should not be deleted and there should be a specific provision to de-register a party if it violates the undertaking given under the section. The power to de-register should vest in the High Court.

7. Mobilisation of employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodes aided by the Government etc., for election duties as also to provide that employees of such bodies including local bodies could also be deployed for election duties outside their State.

8. Restoration of pre-1974 position in respect of election expenses.

9. Increase in the ceiling on election expenses as laid in Rule 90 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

10. The officer nominated or designated as Chief Electoral Officer should not be allowed to do any other work except with the approval of the Election Commission.

11. Statutory backing to provisions of Part VII of the Model Code of Conduct.

12. Empowering Election Commission to issue instructions and to make recommendations in connection with elections.

Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Land and Restriction of Allenated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996

4087. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala High Court has directed the

Central Government to complete all preuminary steps before the sumission of the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restriction of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996 for the consideration of the President within two months from the date of issuing the direction; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its Order dated 24.3.1997 has directed the Union of India to complete all preliminary steps required to be taken before submission of the Bill for the consideration of the President and submit the same to the President as early as possible, at any rate within a period of two months from 24.3.1997.

The Union Government has taken expeditious action to complete all preliminary steps in this regard.

Abolition of Death Benefit Scheme for Advocates in Orissa

4088. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that the Scheme regarding Death Benefit, concerning advocates under Orissa Bar Council has been abolished by virtue of resolution dated 9th May, 1996;

(b) whether the resolution amounts to violation of natural justice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Constitution of panel of jurists

4089. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to constitute a panel of jurists to go into the necessity to streamline varoius laws, statutes existing in our country in order to avoid harassment to law abiding citizens; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Constitution of a panel of retired judges may be one of the alternatives to review the outdated laws.

(b) The final decision is yet to be taken.

Pending claims of motor accidents in Madras High Court

4090. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases relating to motor accidents claims have been pending for disposal in the High Court of Madras;

(b) if so, out of these cases how many cases have been disposed off during 1996 and upto date;

(c) whether considering this as a welfare measure any steps have been taken by the Hon'ble High Court for the speedy disposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Re-